

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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TO: Local Health Departments Supplying Hepatitis B Birth Dose to Hospitals

FROM: Lori Hutchinson, Vaccine Coordinator
Montana Immunization Program

DATE: August 4, 2011

SUBJECT: Enrolling Birthing Hospitals in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

The Montana Immunization Program requests your assistance in enrolling birthing hospitals as VFC providers. This will allow them to continue to receive hepatitis B birth dose funded through the VFC Program.

The Montana Immunization Program supports a universal hepatitis B birth dose program for all infants born in the state. We fund this program using a variety of sources, including the VFC Program. During a recent review, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concluded that the Montana hepatitis B birth dose program does not comply with VFC requirements in two regards: 1) VFC vaccine is transferred to providers not enrolled in the VFC Program (birthing hospitals) and 2) hospitals are not screening for VFC eligibility. The CDC has determined that we must enroll birthing hospitals as VFC providers by August 31, 2011 or stop providing VFC-funded hepatitis B birth dose to non-enrolled hospitals. We are asking birthing hospitals to enroll in the VFC Program.

Due to the short timeline and to allow your continued participation in the birth dose program, we are requesting your help in the hospital enrollment process. Our strategy is to avoid disruption of the birth dose supply, preserve established relationships where possible, and streamline the VFC requirements for the hospitals. Please know that this is just a request. If you are unable to help, we will contact your local hospital directly.

If you are willing to help, we ask that you assist your local birthing hospital:

- Enroll in the VFC Program. They will be required to submit a Provider Agreement and Provider Profile to the Immunization Program for the first time and will need assistance
- Develop a process for logging temperatures in VFC vaccine storage units twice daily (Hospitals are not required to use State-supplied data loggers.)
- Track VFC-eligible birth dose recipients by using an approved tracking method (See the *VFC Handbook for Birthing Hospitals* Section 4). The easiest method would be a computer-generated report from the hospital's electronic health record or billing system. Reports must be approved by the Immunization Program (Approval Request Form attached).
- Develop or review (if already in place) the process for ordering and accounting for birth dose vaccine (see below).

Please note that all infants can still receive the hepatitis B birth dose from one State-supplied stock of vaccine. The hospitals simply need to track which doses are administered to VFC eligible infants. You can continue to order, supply, and track State-supplied hepatitis B birth dose for your local hospital. This will relieve the hospital from having to order and report directly to the Immunization Program. However, you must report all administered hepatitis B birth doses (regardless of patient eligibility status) on your monthly report to Jerry at Home IV Pharmacy. If you choose not to perform these functions, then the hospital will be required to order and report directly to the Immunization Program through Home IV Pharmacy.

We've developed the following documents to assist with the enrollment process. These have been sent to you by regular mail and are also available on our website (www.immunization.mt.gov) under the VFC link.

- VFC Provider Handbook for Birthing Hospitals
- Provider Agreement
- Provider Profile (modified for birthing hospitals)
- Request for Approval of Computer-Generated VFC Screening Report
- A copy of the memo sent to your local birthing hospital(s)
- A spreadsheet of hospital contacts to whom the memo was sent

If you are unable to help with this project, please contact the Immunization Program (444-5580 hhsiz@mt.gov) so we can make arrangements to reach out to your hospital directly.

We have scheduled a conference call for **Friday August 12, 2011 at 1:00PM** to answer questions. Katy Grady will email call-in information at the beginning of the week.